VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

Demand I—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income.

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao (*Land Revenue and Income-Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 10,51,949 under Demand I—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income.

President: I take it that honourable members will hand over to the Secretary, if they want to move anything, their names, because I can call them, if possible, according to those names.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Sir, I oppose the Demand. In doing so, my idea is to bring home to the Government and to the House.....

President: Order, order. It think it might be useful in this honourable House to have some kind of mutual arrangement among the honourable members of the non-official groups to raise not more than two or three points of policy. As a matter of fact, the limits of debate in this honourable House are well known and I think it will lead to the clarification of important issues and the getting of adequate information so far as the honourable members of the non-official benches are concerned and also to carefully compiled answers on the side of Government. If, for instance, honourable members of this House can come to some kind of conclusion, those two or three big points will alone be raised under each demand and some notice of that is given, then the honourable members on the Government benches will be more prepared. As it is what happens is, one honourable friend gets up, and nobody knows until he gets up what he is going to say. The official member might be ready with facts and figures or he might not be ready. The limitations of a debate here are well known to non-official members. You can approximate the procedure here to the procedure in the other House if you can make clear the points on which you are concentrating. For the coming three days that procedure might be adopted. The honourable members might meet all together or in several groups and might come to an arrangement in regard to the points to be raised in discussing any demand.

Mr. M.K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Sir, I oppose the Demand. In doing so, my object is to bring home to the Government and to this House, the difficulties experienced by the taxpayers in this country. At page 10 of the Administration Report of the Land Revenue Department for 1113 it will be seen that the total number of demand notices issued in 1113 was 9,89,288.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President : I have already stated that the time-limit for the speeches will be ten minutes. I am afraid that I shall not give any relaxation because as many honourable members as would like to speak must be given a chance.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: In this connection, what I wish to say is that one taxpayer generally pays tax in the name of ever so many individual pattadars. The procedure now adopted is to issue notices to one and the same individual at the rate of one for each patta under which he has to pay the tax. A man who has to pay tax in the names of twelve individuals in one pakuthy is being served with twelve separate notices. That means twelve fanams. Well, there is absolutely no necessity for issuing separate notices to the very same individual, because, the pakuthy staff know that a certain individual has to pay tax in the name of several pattas. In such cases it will be quite sufficient if one notice is issued showing the amounts he has to pay under the various pattas for which he has to pay the tax. I request that this aspect of the matter should be seriously considered by Government.

Another question which I have to deal with is with regard to the Vembanad reclamation. We have been continuously agitating for the inclusion of each of the blocks in the Vembanad reclamation area under a separate pakuthy. Each of the Blocks C, D, E and F, forms part of the several pakuthies and some of them fall within the jurisdiction of even two divisions. Considerable difficulty is being felt by the owners of this reclamation in the payment of tax. Nobody knows where his portion of the lands lies. Further, certain lands have not as yet been divided and are left in common for all the owners of the Block and nobody knows where he has to pay the tax. In consequence, at times, portions of the land which fall to the share of the individual who has already paid the tax is being sold for arrears of tax for the default of another man. In Chingom 1106 or 1108 the Government by an order which was published in the Government Gazette brought each of these Blocks under a separate pakuthy but that order has not yet been given effect to. I request that that order should be given effect to at once.

Another matter which I may bring to the notice of Government is the difficulties that are experienced by the ryots of Kuttanad in the matter of working Section 23 of the Irrigation Act. According to that section the officer to help us is the Tahsildar who is stationed at Alleppey. We have been requesting that we should have a separate officer for the three or four months in the year beginning from Thulam to Medam to help us in putting up the ring bunds and the baling out of water in time. When we go to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the Tahsildar, he does not find time to come and help us. Time is of the essence for the success, so far as the Kuttanad cultivator is concerned, Now that we have been given an Agricultural Inspector for the Kuttanad area, I would suggest that if he is given the power under the Irrigation Act, much of our difficulties could be solved. As I stated yesterday during the general discussion of the Budget, the lands in Kuttanad covering an area of nearly 2 lakhs of acres could be brought under annual cultivation if only Government would lend a helping hand to us. What we ask for is to empower an officer or a body of persons within that area for three or four months every year to see that the bunds are being constructed at the proper time and that parties are taken to task if they do not perform their portion of the work.

Sir, in the matter of pumping out water from the fields, this is a work which has to be done in common by all the cultivators. It consumes an enormous amount and unless the amount that is due from each and every cultivator of a pattom is realised then and there, the process of pumping out water will be very difficult. Hence it is that I request that earliest steps should be taken to grant us the facilities that we have been asking for.

Mr. James Fletcher (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I also oppose the Demand with a view to bring to the notice of this honourable House and to the Government the fact that the public markets are kept in a very deplorable condition. The total number of public markets at the end of 1113 was 219. Of this, 67 are in Trivandrum, 73 in Quilon, 75 in Kottayam and 4 in Devicolam. Under Rule 27 of the Rules framed under the Markets Act, these public markets ought to be maintained in certain condition, that is "arrangements shall be made by the Government for ample supply of clean water for drinking and washing, adequate latrine accommodation, a proper drainage in the markets and all floors on which goods are handled or are exposed for sale should be cemented and perfectly smooth." These are the pre-requisites for a proper public market. The rule is there but unfortunately it is never carried out. Sir, these needs for public markets are primary needs and nobody can deny the fact that in a market where ordinary poor people meet in the morning and go away in the evening, there should be ample supply of clean water for drinking. May I ask, Sir, the member in charge of this Department whether at least in 50 per cent of these markets there is ample supply of clean water for drinking? There is no such provision. Similarly, there is no adequate latrine accommodation and there is no proper drainage. These things are highly necessary.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. James Fletcher.]

Now, I may submit that in 1113 the income from markets went above Rs. 1 lakh ; but the expenses for all these 219 markets are given as Rs. 8,542. That means, a market gets about 39 rupees per year. That works at Rs. 3 per month nearly, which will be insufficient even for keeping the place clean with the help of a sweeper. That is a very poor repayment for an institution which brings about one lakh of Rupees. Ordinarily, our understanding is that Government collects the money from markets with a view to repay it so that those institutions might be improved. A market is a place where all people come and meet together for purchasing and selling goods. Therefore, it should be kept clean and in a proper sanitary condition. It ought to be kept free from all possibilities of infectious diseases spreading therefrom. None of these things is looked after. The amount provided in this budget for spending on these markets is not sufficient. I request Government to take immmediate action in this matter and do what is really necessary for keeping the markets clean and proper.

Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai (*Tovala* cum *Agastisvaram*) : Sir, I too oppose the demand. My object is to draw the attention of Government to the extreme and urgent necessity of conducting a re-survey and re-settlement throughout the State. Though Government are extremely sympathetic towards the cause of the ryots and they are adopting far-reaching measures to improve their lot, I will be failing in my duty if I do not advert to one important measure which the Government has been postponing; I mean the Land Revenue reform. The most glaring defect in the system of land revenue assessment is the unfair unequal and inequitable Distribution of tax burdens. As is too well-known and conceded by Government, in one part of the State the assessment is very onerous and excessive, in another part of the State it is moderate, in another part it is light, in another part it is merely nominal and in some parts there is open evasion of tax.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : May I know from the member, evasion of what tax please ?

Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai : Land tax. A re-survey and re-settlement alone will solve the problem. The last survey was conducted from 1053 to 1083. Since then, several new plantations have come about in the land. Also, several changes have come about in respect of holdings, size of holdings, tenures etc. In North Travancore, especially, several encroachments and extensive cultivations have taken place in waste lands, and porambokes. Further several encroachments have been effected in areas where coffee and cardamom are cultivated. Several extensive areas such as these have not been brought under assessment at all.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

From the point of view of revenue administration also, a re-survey and re-settlement are absolutely necessary. Re-survey was going on when the Boundary Regulation was defective. Hence even now in courts old *olugu* of 1012 is relied on in preference to survey records. I submit that if a resurvey is undertaken, not only there will be a convenient grouping of tenures, not only there will be a re-classification of taluks for the convenience of collecting tax, but suits relating to lands will greatly diminish in future. That will be most beneficial to the ryots On account of the present incorrect survey records and the incorrect measurements of lands, the agricultural population are put to a lot of inconvenience by being dragged on in litigations. My friend Mr. Ananthasiva Iyer has been narrating several difficulties experienced by the ryots in payment of tax and how some times the land holders are compelled to pay tax a second time for the lands for which they need not have paid. Their lands are being sold away for arrears of tax and therefore the ryots in those areas are compelled to pay tax a second time. Therefore, my submission is that to avoid such difficulties, it is highly necessary that a thorough and drastic reorganisation in the land revenue system has to be brought about as early as possible. By doing so, it will not only rectify the mistakes committed in regard to lands but also the inequality of assessment and also the different tenures in the Land Revenue administration could be done away with. That will also bring about a new source of revenue to Government. Our Government have been very strict in detecting cases of evasion and as a result of that additional source of revenue has been found out. By conducting a resurvey and resettlement, I am sure a large revenue will become available to Government by means of revenue assessment as well as by detection of cases due to evasion of land tax. In this connection I shall enumerate the important items which could form the chief source of revenue at the next settlement.

The following additional sources of revenue may be expected from.—

(1) Sale value and assessment of waste lands cultivated;
(2) Extension of cultivation under coffee, tea and cardomom areas;
(3) New garden plantations on dry lands;
(4) Assignment of cultivation on poramboke lands;
(5) Increase in taxation for rubber, tea and coffee areas;
(6) Assessment from grass lands in Kannan Devan Concession areas.

These are the main sources of revenue which can be expected from a resurvey and resettlement. This measure may be opposed because, the land question touches and affects our old, social and economic relations of the people, who depend upon lands.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan (*Nominated*) : ആദ്യം ക്ലൂണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തിലാണോ റീ സർവ്വെയും റീ സെറ്റിൽമെൻറും വേണമെന്ന പറയുന്നത് ?

Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai : One of the reasons why a resettlement is necessary is, an additional source of revenue could be secured thereby. But the main reason is not that. In one part of the country, there is excessive assessment and in another part of the country there is only a nominal assessment, in regard to equal areas of land, In order to remedy the inequality obtaining in the matter of assessment in the State, I am of the opinion that a re-survey and resettlement are highly necessary.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ന്യായമായ രീതിയിൽ നിന്നും കുറവായി കരം കൊടുക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളുണ്ടെന്ന് മെംബർക്ക് നിശ്ചയമുണ്ടോ?

Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai : നല്ല നിശ്ചയമുണ്ട്.

I am also aware of instances where the ryots do not pay at all in spite of their cultivation.

Turning my attention to another matter I have to say that the ryots are grateful to Government for the substantial remission granted by Government. At the same time, I will be failing in my duty if I do not bring to the notice of Government the difficulties of the ryots owning lands under the tank-bed registry. They are more heavily taxed than the Pandaravagai tenures. The rate of assessment for tank beds is Rs. 35 8-0 per acre when compared to the Pandaravaga lands which are assessed at Rs. 25 8-0 per acre. That is a very hard case and requires remedy at the hands of Government.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla (*Mavelikara and Tiruvalla cum Pathanamthitta*) : Sir, I do not want to repeat what has been said here by the previous speakers about the Land Revenue Department But I want to emphasise one or two aspects in relation to the taxation in this country. I feel that a reorientation in the matter of taxation is very necessary. Looking at it from a very large point of view I think the incidence of taxation falls on shoulders of people who cannot bear it and that in most cases, unjustly and unfairly. My predecessor who spoke just now said that the inequalities in taxation are obtaining in different parts of the country. I have to submit that inequalities in taxation are found even in the same division. I know a gentleman who pays four chuckrams for four acres of land and the same gentleman has to pay Rs. 18 for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

two acres of land. No person is coming forward to cultivate such lands either even if he offers it for the amount of the tax. To my mind this is a sufficient illustration to show that the incidence of taxation in certain cases is very unfair, though the percentage of land tax comes to only about ten annas. The wearer knows where the shoe pinches. When a man has to pay tax, then alone he will realise the difficulties he has to undergo in paying it. One point is that the system of land tax is an old and worn out one. It was a system that came into existence when the prices of the produce from land were very good. Now the agriculturists have gone down very low and their production also has fallen to a very great extent. They have now to pay high taxes. I feel very strongly therefore that a reorientation in the method of taxation is very essential, particularly with regard to land tax.

Another point that I want to speak about is the difficulty caused to the people who cultivate Kandukrishi lands. Representations have been made to Government about this matter. I cannot understand how Government can impose a penalty of five times the amount of pattom which a cultivator now gives. He has already to pay a heavy pattom. For the sake of improving those lands, to ask them to pay five times the amount of tax that is now paid by the Kandukrishi tenant is really hard. To ask him to pay at this rate for the past ten or fifteen years such amounts, is harder still. For the amount he is asked to pay, I think he can get better land than the one occupied by him. A certain Ezhava woman from Mavelikara came to me and acquainted me with the difficulties experienced by her. She even suggested that her lands might as well be taken away by Government. But instead of doing so, the authorities have thought it fit to realise from her other properties, the arrears of tax due from her. If this were a fact, such a state of affairs is really unjust. I have to appeal to the Government to rectify this matter. This is clearly an illustration of what I said yesterday *viz*,

Water, water, everywhere,
Not a drop to drink,
Officer, officer, everywhere,
Officer lives in our midst
And cannot understand
A ryot's difficulties.

That is the position of the agriculturists in our country. I appeal to Government to realise the hard condition of the agriculturists and emedy their grievances to the extent that is possible by them. It is likely that a person might have transferred his piece of land to another for enjoyment and somebody else may be

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla.]

responsible for converting that piece of land. Simply to impose several times the amount of tax that is paid by him is really hard for that tenant to bear. As my friend suggested yesterday, in 99 cases out of 100, the Kandukrishi tenants suffer very much on account of the imposition of excessive tax. The Government should take the situation in hand and remedy it as early as possible.

A third point which I want to bring to the attention of the Revenue Commissioner is about the no man's land that lies between Haripad Tiruvalla and Kuttanad. That portion belongs to nobody, that is what I should say. Tiruvalla taluk for the most part of it is high-ground. The lower part on the western side of Tiruvalla has more or less affinity with Kuttanad, but it does not belong to that region. Similarly, in Haripad also, there is a portion which is very similar to Kuttanad. When the Government fixes the price of paddy, Kuttanad gets 12 chuckrams per para and the other adjoining area gets 13½ chuckrams. Varying rates are fixed and that is a position which I cannot understand.

Again in this area there is absolutely no difference in rate in the price of paddy. I have been told by the Peishkar a particular rate. As I have often said that the report of the Peishkar must be more acceptable than the statement of a private citizen, I have only to ask Government to consider the question involved in this matter.

I submit that in all these cases the Government must make an impartial investigation into the matter and when a member of the Assembly or the Council makes a statement and the Peishkar makes another statement, the Government should make an impartial enquiry and find out its truth. There is no other way by which we can assert positively that the thing is right or the thing is wrong. My request in relation to this particular area therefore is that it must be attached to Kuttanad. This area is so much overlooked that it is really a no-man's land. These people have no organisation to represent their case to the authorities. They have been asked to meet together and consider the matter so that it may be represented before the authorities concerned. They cannot do even that. As the Chief Secretary knows, there was the case of an Anchal Office. Even that Anchal Office, they could not carry on in that particular area. The people are so disorganised and are so much in difficulties that they cannot look for themselves. What I would suggest therefore is that the Land Revenue Commissioner should enter into this question and include the particular area which I have referred to in the Kuttanad area.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : സർ, ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ എതിർത്തുകൊണ്ട് അതിഗൗരവവും അതിപ്രധാനവുമായ രണ്ടു സംഗതികൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ പ്രധാനമായ ഒരു വകുപ്പാണ് റവന്യൂവകുപ്പ്. അതിനെ ആശ്രയിച്ചുതന്നെ ഇവിടത്തെ കൃഷി നിലനിൽക്കുന്നതു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഒരു കൃഷിസ്ഥലമാണ് കുട്ടനാട്. അവിടത്തെ പ്രയത്നഫലമായി ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ധാന്യങ്ങൾ മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ താരതമ്യേന ഗണ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള നിലയിൽ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ സഹായിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ പുഞ്ചകൃഷി നടത്തുന്നതിന് ചെയ്യുന്ന പ്രയത്നം രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ഇതരഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ചെയ്യുന്ന പ്രയത്നത്തെക്കാൾ വളരെ കൂടുതലാണ്. ഒരു വ്യവസായം നടത്തുന്നതോതിൽ ഏറ്റവും അത്ഭുതാവഹമായ സ്ഥിതിയിലാണ് അവിടത്തെ പുഞ്ചനിലങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥിതി. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൻെറ ഇതരസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതു് ഈശ്വരദത്തമായ ഭൂമിയിലാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഞങ്ങൾ അതാതു കൊല്ലത്തിൽ കൃഷിക്കുവേണ്ടി പ്രത്യേകമായി സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്ന ഭൂഭാഗത്തിലാണ് കൃഷി നടത്തുന്നതു്. ഈ അടുത്തകാലത്തു് വേമ്പനാടൻ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ വരമ്പിട്ട് കുത്തിയെടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ചെയ്തു വരുന്ന കൃഷി ഏതൊരു അത്ഭുതപരതന്ത്രനാക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം അത്രത്തോളം ശ്രമാവഹമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. പരിശ്രമശീലന്മാരായ പാശ്ചാത്യർ ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ വന്ന് സ്ഥലവിഭാഗങ്ങളുടെ വൈശിഷ്ട്യത്തെക്കണ്ടു് അവയെ എല്ലാം കൈവശപ്പെടുത്തി മാതൃകാപരവും വിശിഷ്ടവുമായ നിലയിൽ കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും യാതൊരു പാശ്ചാത്യനും കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ പുഞ്ചക്കൃഷിയിൽ കൈവയ്ക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. മി. അനന്തശിവയ്യർ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ റവന്യൂ വകുപ്പിലെ ദൃഷ്യംകൊണ്ടും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധാക്കുറവിനാലും കൃഷിയുടെ രക്ഷക്കു് ആവശ്യമായ നിയമങ്ങൾ ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടും സാമാന്യജനങ്ങൾക്കു് വളരെ വിഷമമുണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ധനദാരിദ്ര്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു ചിന്തിക്കുമ്പോൾ കുട്ടനാട്ടിൻെറ അഭിവൃദ്ധി രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ പൊതു അഭിവൃദ്ധിയായി വരുമെന്നുള്ളതിനെ നിദാനമാക്കി വേണ്ട സംഗതികൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. അഞ്ചാറു താലൂക്കുകളുടെ പരിധികളിലായി കുട്ടനാട് പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം തിരിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ഓരോതാലൂക്കിലുമുള്ള അധികൃതന്മാർ വേണ്ടവണ്ണം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാതിരിക്കുകയും കാർഷികമായി റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടേ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

ണ്ട സഹായം ലഭിക്കാതിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ ഈ ഘട്ട ത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടു വരുവാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്ര ഹിക്കുന്നത് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐകരൂപ്യമുള്ള ജീവിതരീതിയും തൊഴിൽസമ്പ ദായവും ഭൂപ്രകൃതിയും പരിഗണിച്ച് കുട്ടനാട്ടിന്റെ എല്ലാ ഭാഗങ്ങളുംകൂ ടി ഇണക്കി ഒരു റവന്യൂ വിഭാഗമാക്കി പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ കീഴിലാക്കണമെന്നാണ്. കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ സഞ്ചാരസൗകര്യത്തിന്റെ കുറവുമൂലം വസ്തുക്കൾ ലേലം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു മാത്രമല്ലാതെ യാതൊരു റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോ ഗസ്ഥനും ആ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ വരുന്നില്ല. ഈ അടുത്തകാലത്ത് ഡിപ്പാ ർട്ടുമെൻറ് മേലധ്യക്ഷൻ കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ അവിടവിടെയായി സഞ്ചരിച്ച് ജന ങ്ങളോടു സമ്പർക്കം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഇവിടെ കൃതജ്ഞതാപൂ ർവ്വം സ്മരിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹം പ്രവർത്തിച്ചതുപോലെ താലൂക്ക് അ ധികൃതന്മാരും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളെ നേരിട്ടു മനസ്സിലാക്കി ആ സ്ഥ ലത്തിന്റെ നന്മക്ക് അത്യാവശ്യമായ സംഗതികൾ എന്തെല്ലാമാണെന്നു പരിശോധിച്ചിരുന്നു എന്നു വരുകിൽ ഈ വക വിഷമതകൾ അധികം അവിടെ ഉണ്ടാകുകയില്ലായിരുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഗുരുഭാരമായ ജോലികൾക്കിടയിൽ സുഖസൗകര്യാദികളോടുകൂടിയ പട്ടണങ്ങളെ വിട്ടു പോകാൻ മടി കാണിക്കുന്നതു സ്വാഭാവികമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് വേണ്ട വിധത്തിലുള്ള പരിശോധനകൾ നടത്തുന്നതിന് കുട്ടനാട്ടിനെ പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു താലൂക്കാക്കി പ്രത്യേകംഒരു അധിപന്റെ കീഴിൽ വയ്ക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാ വശ്യമാണ്.

ഇനിയും ഒരു പ്രധാന സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടു വരുവാനുണ്ട്. അതു് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ പുതുവൽ പതിവു സംബ ന്ധമായി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള പുതിയ കരത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. കു ട്ടനാട്ടിലെ ഭൂമി തെങ്ങുകൃഷിക്കു മാത്രമല്ല കുടിപാർപ്പിനായിട്ടും ക്രമേ ണ ചെറിയ ചെറിയ ഭാഗങ്ങൾ കുത്തിഎടുത്തു് ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തി വരുന്നതാ ണ്. ജീവസന്ധാരണത്തിനത്യാവശ്യമായ കുടിപാർപ്പു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ക്രമേണ ഇപ്പോൾ തറവില ഈടാക്കി വരുന്നുണ്ട്. ൪ ൦ രൂപാ ചി ലവാക്കി കുത്തി എടുത്ത കുടിപാർപ്പു സ്ഥലത്തിന് ൫ ൦ രൂപാ തറവില കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ പണയപ്പെടുത്തി ട്രഷറി ജാമ്യബാങ്കിൽ നിന്നോ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ക്രഡിറ്റുബാങ്കിൽ നിന്നോ കടമെ ടുക്കുന്നതിനു അപേക്ഷിച്ചാൽ ഇവക്ക് ൫ ൪ _൹,൫ ൦ _൹ രൂപാ വില ഇട്ടു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

വരുന്നുണ്ട്. കൂട്ടനാട്ടിൽ കൂടിപാർപ്പിടങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ തറവില കൂടാതെ സൗജന്യമായിതരേണ്ടതാണ്. അവിടത്തെ കരം ഏർപ്പാടിൽ വലിയ ന്യൂനതകൾ വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതായി തോന്നുന്നുണ്ട്. ഫൻസ്റ്റൽ മി. സി. വി. ചന്ദ്രശേഖരന്റെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷതയിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ കമ്മറിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിന്റെ ഒരു ഭാഗത്തു അദ്ദേഹം പറയുന്നത് ഇവിടത്തെ കരം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തൽ Unscientific way of taxation ആണെന്നാണ്. ഇങ്ങിനെ അശാസ്ത്രീയമായ നിലയിലുള്ള നികുതി സമ്പ്രദായം മൂലമാണ് പലപ്പോഴും കരമിളവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരുന്നത്. കരം ശരിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിന് എത്രയെല്ലാം പ്രായോഗിക വിഷമങ്ങളുണ്ടെന്നാലും മി. ആദമുഖംപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ചില പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ കരം കൂടുതലും ചിലയിടത്തു് കരം കുറവും കാണുന്നതു് പരിഹരിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ടതാണ്. ഒരേ തരത്തിലുള്ള കായൽ പ്രദേശങ്ങൾ തന്നെ പലതരത്തിലുള്ള കരം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണാവുള്ളതാണ്. പൂഞ്ഞാറിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഈ അടുത്ത കാലത്തു പത്രങ്ങൾ വായിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയതു് വലിയ വിഷമം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു എന്നാണ്. നിയമത്തിൽ പറയുന്നതു് ഫൊറെകൊല്ലത്തിനകം പട്ടുപോകാത്ത വൃക്ഷങ്ങളാണെന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടാൽ അവക്ക് കരം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നാണ്. ഇതുവരെ തെങ്ങുരോഗത്തിന്റെ നിവാരണത്തിനായി പല പരീക്ഷണങ്ങളും ഗവേഷണങ്ങളും നടത്തിയിട്ടും ഒരു പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗം കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതിന് സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നു് ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാർതന്നെ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഫൊറെകൊല്ലത്തിനകം പട്ടുപോകുന്നതും അല്ലാത്തതുമായവൃക്ഷങ്ങൾഏതാണെന്നു കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതു് എങ്ങിനെയാണെന്നു് മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈസംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു കൊള്ളുന്നു. അവിടത്തെ പാഴ്മരങ്ങൾക്കു് തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുള്ള നല്ല മരങ്ങളെപ്പോലെ വിലചുമത്തുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ആ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടം പല മെമ്മോറിയലുകളും ഡപ്യൂട്ടേഷനും മുഖേന രേഖപ്പെടുത്തപ്പെട്ടു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അവിടത്തെ കരം ഏർപ്പാടു സമ്പ്രദായം തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെന്നും അതിലേക്കുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് സങ്കടത്തിനു കാരണമായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നും അധികൃതർ ധരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് പുതിയ ഭൂമികളിൽ കരം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു് ശരിയായി നിഷ്കർഷയോടുകൂടി വേണ്ടതാണ്. റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തെ പ്രത്യേക വിഷമങ്ങൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കി പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ നെൽകൃഷിയുടെ അതിപ്രധാനമായ ഉല്പാദന സ്ഥലമായ കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ കൃഷിയെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിനെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനുമായി അതിനെ പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു താലൂക്ക് ആക്കണമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Namboodiri: (*Travancore Jenmies*) : തെങ്ങുകൃഷിയും കരുമുളകു കൃഷിയും നടത്തുന്നതിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാന്യം അർഹിക്കുന്നത് പൂഞ്ഞാറിലാണെന്നുള്ള വിവരം അറിയാമോ ?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : കുട്ടനാടൻ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ തെങ്ങുകൃഷി തുലപ്രധാനമുള്ളതാണ്.

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Namboodiri : കിഴക്കൻ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ തെങ്ങാ കുട്ടനാട്ടിലുള്ളതിനേക്കാൾ നല്ലതല്ലേ?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ പല സ്ഥലത്തും അതേ തരത്തിലുള്ള തെങ്ങുകൃഷി ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്.

Miss. Thressia Kora (*Todupuzha* cum *Minachil*) : I strongly support the motion to omit the total allotment under Land Revenue. I wish to point out that the country is suffering much and the Government who are to care for the welfare of the people are utterly indifferent to their duty. The continued depression in the price of agricultural commodities and the consequent increase of the indebtedness of the agriculturist is driving them to despair. It is high time for the Government to make some permanent reduction in land revenue. They have done well in reducing the land revenue in South Travancore. I request the Government to extend this favour to northern taluks also.

In this connection I wish to refer to the settlement operation in Poonjar. As early as 1109 when the Edavagai Act was passed, the tenants of Poonjar were petitioning the Government regarding the untold misery and hardships which they were suffering. But in spite of all that, Government passed stringent rules which are now working great havoc among the people of the Edavagai. Lands in the Thekkekara pakuthi are now assessed to land tax at a rate ranging from 5 to 11 rupees per acre. Contrary to the express orders of the Government to exempt cocoanut trees which are not expected to live for a period of 12 years from the date of the issue of patta, they are also now taxed at the usual rate. Under such circumstance, I request the Government to postpone the issue of patta till these irregularities and mistakes are corrected.

Mr. E. K. Kuripe: (*Parur, Kunnathunad and Muvattupuzha*) cum *Devicolam*)) : സർ, തരിശായി കിടക്കുന്ന ഭൂമികളിൽ പലതിലും കടം വാങ്ങിച്ച് കൃഷി ഇറക്കിയും വെള്ളത്തിനു സൗകര്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

നിലങ്ങളാക്കിയും പുരയിടങ്ങളിൽ വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ വച്ചു പിടിപ്പിച്ചും അനുഭവത്തിൽ വരുമ്പോൾ ആ വസ്തുക്കൾക്ക് എന്തു വില വരുന്നുവോ അതും സംഖ്യ അതിന്റെ തറവിലയായി ഇപ്പോൾ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ആ സംഖ്യ കൊടുത്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ വസ്തു അനുഭവിച്ചതിന് ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയും വസ്തുവിൽനിന്ന് ഇറക്കി വിടുകയും ചെയ്യുവരുന്നു. ഇതു് എന്തു് അന്യായമാണ് . എല്ലാ താലൂക്കുകളിലും ഈ തറവില ഈടാക്കുന്നതിന് വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ കൂടുതൽ തറവില ഈടാക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം തങ്ങൾക്കു ഉദ്യോഗക്കയറ്റവും പ്രോത്സാഹനവും ലഭിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നു് വിചാരിച്ചു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ജനങ്ങളോടു് പെരുമാറുന്നതു പോലെ തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടു്. തറവില, തടിവില മുതലായ ഇനങ്ങളിലായി ൨൫൦രൂപായിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ മാത്രമെ തവണ അനുവദിയ്ക്കുയുള്ളു എന്നു് പെരുപ്പിരിയുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് സാധാരണ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വസ്തു പതിച്ചു വാങ്ങുന്നതിന് വളരെ പ്രയാസങ്ങൾ നേരിടുന്നു. തറവിലയും, തടിവിലയും ഇനങ്ങൾ, തവണകളായി കെട്ടി വയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് അനുവദിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ ചാർജ്ജില്ലാത്ത വസ്തുക്കൾകൂടി പണയപ്പെടുത്തി കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു് നിർബന്ധിയ്ക്കുന്നതു് സാധുക്കളായ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഭൂമി പതിച്ചു് എടുക്കുന്നതിന് നിവർത്തിയില്ലാതാക്കിതീർക്കുന്നു. പള്ളിവാസൽ പകുതിയിലെ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ അവിടത്തെ പകുതിക്കുറിയിൽ സ്വാധീനമില്ലാത്ത ആളുകൾക്കു് പതിച്ചു കിട്ടാൻ വളരെ പ്രയാസമാണ്. റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ആ വക സ്ഥലങ്ങളുടെ മഹസർ എഴുതുന്നതു് അവരുടെ ആഫീസിൽ വച്ചോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ കക്ഷി കൈക്കൂലി കൊടുക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അവരുടെ സ്വന്തം സ്ഥലത്തു വച്ചോ ആണ്. ഒരു കക്ഷിക്കുവേണ്ടി മഹസർ എഴുതിയ സ്ഥലത്തു് ഒന്നിലധികം പ്രാവശ്യം മഹസർ എഴുതി വരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് പലപ്പോഴും കക്ഷിക്കു് ഭൂമി കിട്ടാതെ വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. തൻ നിമിത്തം തൽസംബന്ധമായി പലവിധത്തിലുള്ള കേസുകളും ഉണ്ടാവിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan:രണ്ടുപേരുടെ കൈക്കൽ നിന്നും കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിച്ചു കൊണ്ടാണോ ഇപ്രകാരം മഹസർ എഴുതുന്നതു് ?

Mr. E. K. Kuripe : രണ്ടുകൂട്ടരും കൈക്കൂലി കൊടുക്കുമെന്നു് തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

മഹസർ എഴുതിക്കഴിഞ്ഞതിനുശേഷം മഹസറിനു വിപരീതമായിട്ടാണു് സർവെ ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. പള്ളിവാസൽ പകുതിയിൽ മഹസർ എഴു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. E. K. Kuripe.]

ളുന്നതു് ഒരു സ്ഥലവും സർവെ ചെയ്യുന്നതു് വേറൊരു സ്ഥലവുമായിപല പ്പോഴും സംഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഡിവിഷൻ കച്ചേരിയിൽ സ്വന്തആളുകളു ടെ സ്വാധീനം ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ചിലതൊക്കെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു് നിർബന്ധിതരാകുന്നു. പ്രധാന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരു ടെ മൈയ്ത്തോടുകൂടിയാണു് കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇങ്ങിനെ പ്രവർത്തി ക്കുന്നതു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കമ്മീഷണർ ദേവികുളത്തു് ഇരുന്ന കാലത്തു ഇപ്പ കാരമുള്ള അഴിമതികൾക്കു് വളരെ കുറവുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായി നിയമിച്ചിരിയ്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ വക അഴിമതികളും കുഴപ്പങ്ങളും തീരുമെന്നു് ജനങ്ങൾ വിശ്വസി ക്കുന്നു.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ഈ അഴിമതികളെ പ്പറ്റി പരാതിപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

Mr. E. K. Kuripe : പല പ്രാവശ്യവും ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി പരാതി പ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോഴും പല കേസുകളും ഉണ്ടു്.

ഏലക്കൃഷി നടത്തുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കു് ഏക്കറിന് ന്യൂ രൂപാ ഈ ടാക്കിവരുന്നു. ഇതു സർവെ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള ചിലവുംപ്പെടെയാണു്. സർവയക്കു ദിവസം തോറുമുള്ള ചിലവു കൊടുക്കണം. അതുകൂടാതെ ലൈൻവെട്ടി കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സകല ക്ലേശങ്ങളും കൊടുക്കണം. റവ ന്യൂ വകുപ്പിലെ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ കൈക്കൂലിയും അഴിമ തിയും വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ ക്ഷാമകാലത്തു് നിത്യാവശ്യങ്ങൾ നട ത്തുന്നതിനുപോലും ജനങ്ങൾ വിഷമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതിന്റെ കൂടെ ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു് കൈക്കൂലിയും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതു ഈ ധർമ്മ രാജ്യത്തിനു ഉചിതമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi (*Karunagapalli Kartikapalli, and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): Sir, I also oppose the demand, I also agree with Mr. Arumugham Pillai in believing that a re-settlement is absolutely necessary but I do not support it for the reason alleged by my friend. It must not be to enhance the revenue. It will scare the public.

Mr. V. S. Arumugham Pillai: Sir, on a point of personal explanation. May I inform the member that what I meant was that the object of the settlement should not be to enhance the revenue but to detect cases of evasion of taxation.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: We must make it very clear that the object of the Government is not to enhance the revenue. Rather, the object of the Government must be

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

made plain that it is with a view to effect a more equitable re-distribution of the burden of taxation. As far as I could see—I claim to be a bit of a lawyer—any legal ingenuity has not so far devised any means to evade land-tax. One of the virtues of land tax which commends itself to the administration is that it will not allow itself to be evaded. I cannot see what my honourable friend means by the 'evasion of land tax'. It may be that there may be many cases where the cultivators enjoy properties without being assessed. In that case it is not evasion. When I speek further on this I am reminded of my old days of school mastering. Now, I do not want to recapitulate more elementary lessons. I wish to draw the attention of this House to the problem of Devicolam Division. I was one of those who advocated that the Devicolam Division be abolished to the advantage of the exchequer of the State. But in the light of the explanation given by the Government from time to time I am now inclined to believe that it was not a wise step that the Devicolam Division was abolished, because the whole area is threatened to be wholly swallwed up by enterprising and adventurous people from beyond the Ghats. Sir, by saying this I do not want to alienate the sympathy of Mr. Eric Hall. It is necessary, therefore, that an officer with dignity, courage and presentable qualities, with imagination, who will not only look after the routine affairs and spend his time in scanning the pages of the Civil List to know when he could expect to get the next promotion, but an officer of status and integrity and the requisite personality should be put at the head of this Division. Sir, I do not speak in disparagement of any officer. We want to choose an officer possessing imagination and status and Devicolam should be made a separate revenue division under this officer. I am glad to state that the present Land Revenue Commissioner who has got an intimate knowledge of the area is quite fit to supervise his work. I think the Division Peishkar who is in charge of the Division now is a man well acquainted with the area.

Sir, now I come to another topic referred to by Mr. Kuripe that is, with regard to the registry of lands. As the honourable member said, the problem is one which bristles with difficulties. I understand on reliable authority that most of the available puduval lands and even forest reserve areas are applied for to be registered in the name of a few individuals. I wish them good luck but it will be a calamity to the State if the land is allowed to be monopolised by any individual who has done fancied or real service to the public or to the State. I do not mind a few acres of land being given for meritorious public service, because the practice is found in the tradition of our land. The old Mughal empire and the Mahratta Empire have granted *jagirs* for meritorious service to many people.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President: Will the honourable member refer to any place where such registries are made?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I refer to the taluks of Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha were large areas, say, thousand acres are applied for to be registered—

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: I assure the honourable member that such things have not taken place.

President: I am not aware of any such registeries being made. I wonder how the honourable member came to know of things which the Government themselves are not aware of especially when it relates to a new policy.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, it is only with that object of getting the facts from Government that I made these observations. Sir, in order to avoid communal troubles in future it is necessary, when new areas are registered in favour of individuals, to put all different communities jumbled together so that at least a new type of citizenship may be evoled which will not clamour for community-war appointments in Government Departments.

One other matter which I want to refer to is that the Peishkars may be instructed to make themselves accessible to the people. In that connection I certainly have to congratulate my honourable friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao for the very useful work that he has been doing from pakuthy to pakuthy and maintaining contact with the people. I am not attributing any motive when I say that his object might have been to counteract the work of some "Subversive people." Any way, that is a form of activity to which no one can take exception. He called the people of each pakuthi together, heard about their grievances and assured them immediate redress. That is a sort of work which is expected from the head of every department and more so from the divisional heads instead of going about bossing over local officers and troubling them for supplies. In that connection Sir, without wishing to give offence to anybody I want to mention one particular thing. Perhaps some of the revenue officers have taken it into their heads that they are some sort of political ambassadors appointed by Government. I know that some of them do not even do their usual work of Jemabandi inspections. I know Sir, that one or two of the Peishkars, I speak with a full sense of responsibility, are creating trouble. If Government are inclined to take proper steps, I may inform them also that one of them is an overaged man and his age is somewhere near 57 now. The Division Peiskars must be told that their work is mainly to ameliorate the condition of the ryots. For this they must give free access to the common people and hear their grievances and report the same to the Government. Therefore I wish

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

that the Government will be pleased to send a circular to all the responsible officers of the Land Revenue Department, to the effect that they must cultivate common touch with the people and know the local grievances and report them to Government. That will be the best political work against any possible 'subversive activities' of any section of the people or even the read hot men from Moscow. In spite of the subversive propaganda, if the Government officers maintain direct contact with the people, such propaganda can be viewed with perfect equaminity by the Government.

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai (*Mavelikara and Tiruvalla cum Pathanamthitta*) : ഞാൻ ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നു. അതുചെയ്യുന്നതോടുകൂടി ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഒന്നു രണ്ടു കാര്യങ്ങൾ പറയണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു.

ഒന്നാമതായി എനിക്കു പുറമ്പോക്കു പ്രവേശനക്കേസുകളെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് പറയാനുള്ളതു്. അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഫസ്ലി മാണ്ടു വർഷം പുറമ്പോക്കുപ്രവേശനക്കേസുകൾ എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. ഇവകൾ സാധാരണയായി തോടു പുറമ്പോക്ക്, റോഡ് പുറമ്പോക്ക്, ആറുപുറമ്പോക്ക്, മുതലായ ഇനങ്ങളിലാണ് കാണുന്നതു്. ഫ ൦ @ വ–ലെ ഡിമാർക്കേഷൻ രൂൾ അനുസരിച്ച് വെള്ളം ഒഴുകുന്ന തോടുകളുടെ അടുത്തുള്ള പുരയിടങ്ങൾ ഡിമാർക്കേറ്റു ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ വെള്ളത്തിലെ ഒഴുക്കുകൊണ്ടു കര ഇടിഞ്ഞു വീഴുമെന്നുള്ളതിനാൽ വ ൦ ഫ ൦–൦ ലിംഗ്സ് ഉള്ളിലേക്കു ചേർത്തു കല്ലിടണമെന്നാണു വ്യവസ്ഥയുള്ളതു്. അങ്ങനെ ഫ ൨ സ ൦–൦മാണ്ടിനുശേഷം നദീതീരങ്ങളിൽ സ്ഥാപിക്കേണ്ട കല്ലുകൾ ഉള്ളിലേയ്ക്കു നീട്ടി സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനു കാരണമായി. ഇപ്പോൾ അതിനപ്പുറമുള്ള സ്ഥലമെല്ലാം പുറമ്പോക്കാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു കേസെടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നു. അതു തെറ്റാണ്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ വില്ലേജ് റോഡുകളായിട്ടു സഞ്ചാരത്തിനു വേണ്ടി ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്ന വീഥികൾ പുറമ്പോക്കുവഴികളായി ഡിമാർക്കേറ്റു ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു വീഥിക്കു ഒരു ഭാഗത്തു ഫ @ ലിംഗ്സ് വീതി കണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ അങ്ങേയറ്റംവരെ അതേ വീതിതന്നെയാണെന്നു ഗണിച്ചു റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ റിക്കാർഡുചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ആ വീഥിക്കു തന്നെ മറ്റൊരു ഭാഗത്തു് @ ലിംഗ്സ് വീതിയെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളു എന്നുവരാം. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പുറമ്പോക്കിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചതായി കേസ്സെടുക്കുന്നതു് തെറ്റായ ഒരു നടപടിയാണ്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai.]

ഇനി ലേലനടപടികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളത്. ഫ ഫ ഫ-ലെ ഡിമിനിസ്രേഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൊണ്ട് ഫ ഠ ഫ ഏക്കർ നിലം കരക്കുടിശിഖക്കായി ലേലം ചെയ്യിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണാൻ കഴിയും. ഇതു് ഏക്കർ ഒന്നിനു ര നു രൂപ @ ചക്രം ഫ @ കാശു വീതമായിട്ടാണു പോയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. പുരയിടമാണെങ്കിൽ ഏക്കറൊന്നിനു ഫ ര രൂപ ഫ @ ചക്രം ഫ കാശു വീതം വിലവച്ചാണ് ലേലത്തിൽ പോകുന്നതു്. ഇതിനുള്ള കാരണം ഫ രൂപ കരം കൊടുക്കേണ്ട ഒരു കുടിയാനവന്റെ പത്തോ മുപ്പതോ സെന്റു സ്ഥലമാണ് ലേലത്തിൽ വില്പിക്കുവാൻ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതു്. മാന്നാറിൽ ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു് @ രൂപക്കു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള പറ നിലം ലേലത്തിൽ വില്പിച്ചതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. ഇതു കൊണ്ടു തുകയുടെ മുന്നിരട്ടിവില വരുന്ന സ്ഥലം മാത്രമെ ലേലത്തിനിടാവൂ. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്താൽ അതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു രക്ഷയായിരിക്കും.

അടുത്തതു് ഡിമാന്റു നോട്ടീസിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. ഇപ്പഴത്തെ വാവാടുകളും നായർ താവാടുകളും ഭാഗം ചെയ്തതോടുകൂടി സ്ത്രീവഴിക്കു് വസ്തുക്കൾ കിട്ടുന്നു. ഒരു സ്ത്രീക്കു് മൂന്നും നാലും കുട്ടികളും കാണും. അതു പോക്കുവരവു ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ഇതുപോലുള്ള അമ്മമാരുടെ പേരിലാണു് പോക്കുവരവു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. കരം ഇടാക്കുന്നതിലേക്കായി ഇവരിൽ ഓരോരുത്തർക്കും ഡിമാന്റു നോട്ടീസു കൊടുക്കുന്നു. ഇതു പതിവു നിറുത്തി ഓരോ തറവാട്ടിലേയും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട സ്ത്രീക്കോ പുരുഷനോ ഡിമാന്റു നോട്ടീസു കൊടുക്കുകയാണുവേണ്ടതു്. മി. അനന്തശിവയ്യർ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഓരോ പട്ടയം അനുസരിച്ചു് പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം നോട്ടീസു് അയക്കുന്നതു ശരിയായിരിക്കയില്ല.

Mrs. Abernam Gnanasikhamony (*Nominated*): Sir, I rice to support the Demand. In the Financial Secretary's report we find.

> "Over and above the provision for the normal activities of the Department, the necessary allotment has been made in the Land Revenue Budget for the continuance of"

so many items of work. And also in the end we find

> "the one outstanding feature of the Land Revenue budget for the next year, a feature of particular interest to the ryot, is a lump sum provision of Rs. 20,000 for working out a scheme for bringing up-to-date the records relating to land, which had of late been falling into arrears owing to a substantial reduction of the Land Records Maintenance staff in 1107 as a measure of retrenchment."

President: The honourable member does very well speak extempore. Then why should the member read.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mrs. Abernam Gnanasikhamony: Sir, I am only reading a quotation of the Financial Secretary. I hope and wish that this scheme as stated by the Financial Secretary will be really beneficial to the ryots as it is intended to be. This scheme is also hoped to absorb into service some of the educated unemployed. Sir, it is one of the duties of the Government to see whether any defects like this exist in any of the departments and to rectify those defects by working out similar scheme. I am not unmindful of the fact that for the carrying out of such schemes, Government need money and hence I support this Demand. Sir, I agree with Mr. Anantha-siva Aiyar and Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai in expressing that the demand notice fees should be collected from only one member of a family if the property to be taxed belongs to that family and also in regard to serving many such notices to one individual. Though this may bring a small additional income to the Government it causes great hardships to the tax payers.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I support the Demand. In supporting the Demand I wish to make a few observations. First of all I must make the general remarks I made last year on the floor of this house that the Administration Reports of most of the departments do not contain either an index or table of contents which would facilitate reference. Sir, this is not a phamplet but it is a book-let which is issued to the members of this House by the Government and it is also circulated outside. This book does not show who is the author of the book where it was printed and when. All these facts or matters should find a place in any publication legally issued entitling it to be called a book or report. Any casual observer must be able to ascertain at a glance what are the contents of the book and to which all pages he should refer to get details of those matters on which information is sought. I submit Sir, that though this defect was pointed out once on another occasion from the floor of this house the same is repeated even now and I hope that this will not be repeated in future.

As regards the Land Revenue Department I may point out certain defects in the working of it. Petitions filed by auction purchasers in revenue sales for sannads are not being entered in any register. No register is kept in the taluk offices for entering such petitions so much so that parties have to file petitions every now and then and produce stamp papers more than once. In the same manner, when parties produce stamp papers for preparing sannads no receipts are given. No register is kept for the receipt of such stamp papers. During the course of the interpellations in this House a few days back it was submitted by the honourable member, the Land Revenue Commissioner, that such a register is being kept. But, Sir, on enquiry at several taluks I found this is not the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.]

case. The parties have to produce stamp papers not once but sometimes twice or thrice. I request the Government to see that a proper register for the receipts of petitions and stamp papers is kept for this purpose as in all the revenue courts as is done in all civil courts. The receipts of stamp papers and applications and their pendency can then be easily found if such a register is preserved I also wish to bring to the notice of the Government that much delay is caused in the issue of sale sannads. A formality has to be gone through in this. The sannads are prepared by the Tahsildar and sent to the Division Peishkar for signature. I do not understand the necessity of the Division Peishkar signing this document. Sir, the Munsiff's are authorised to sign and issue sale sannads why not the Tahsildars be given that power and why should the Peishkars sign these sannads in the case of the revenue sales? This is causing inordinate delay. There is, consequently, much difficulty in effecting sales.

Besides these, I wish to point out the various difficulties experienced by the public in the markets to which they take their articles. Now a sum of more than 1 lakh of Rupees is derived as market revenue annually. Most of the markets have not proper and safe stalls, so much so that things taken to the market are damaged by exposure through sun and rain. I submit that, since the revenue derived from that particular source is very great, it is high time that Government consider the importance of erecting proper and safe stalls in all markets to ensure the safety of those who go there as well as the goods taken to the markets for sale.

Another important matter, which I wish to call attention to, is the *karampathippu*. For karampathippu cases the revenue authorities take their stand on the statement in the *patta* to ascertain the original ownership of the land. It so happens that there are mistakes in the *patta* issued, especially in Northern Travancore. We have come across several cases where the *oluku* (ഒലുക്ക്) is not available. I know of an instance where the *oluku* was stolen. The responsible officer from whose custody *oluku* was lost, was punished in this case. During settlement, in certain cases, *patta* was prepared and issued on the basis of available matter in the absence of *oluku*, so much so there is a good deal of confusion in the issue of *patta*. There is a column in the *pattas* issued for recording the *inam* of the property as per the old *oluku*. In the absence of *oluku* the entry in this column is made on surmises. Registered deeds between the Jenmi and Kudiyan, decrees of Court's between the parties wherein the ownership of the party is admitted or established are all ignored by the karampathippu officers and they take their stand on the casual mistaken entries found in the *patta* issued for the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

property. This is very hard and is causing much harm to the Jenmi and Kudiyan in many cases. It so happens that after the karampathippu is effected and the incidental enhancement of tax, the Jenmi gets nothing by way of jenmikaram. He may have to compensate the Kudiyan for the increase in the assessment. At least if the party is able to show that from the time of memory for the last 50 years a property was treated and recognised as belonging to a particular individual, a legal presumption should be that it belongs to that particular man.

President: The honourable member has two minutes more.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: There should be such a legal presumption in cases where the origin cannot be successfully traced that the original ownership must have been in the party who was dealing with the property as his own and he may be saved from the difficulty of proving the impossible.

Mr. P R. Godavarma Raja (*Edavagai*): Sir, I support the motion. In supporting this demand, I wish to answer some charges that have been levelled against the settlement of Poonjar and Vanjipuzha Edavagais which is being carried out now. It is alleged by one or two members that serious irregularities are being committed by the settlement authorities there. As a member representing the Edavagais, I wish to enter my emphatic protest against those allegations. The present settlement officer, who is deputed to carry out that work is a person of undoubted integrity and honesty and, as far as I am able to understand, there have been no real charges brought forward by the tenants themselves. Those who know how the work is being carried on will not say that there are serious irregularities.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: തെക്കേക്കര പകുതിയിൽ നിന്നു മാത്രം ൨൦൦൦ പട്ടാദാരന്മാരുള്ളതിൽ ൫൦൦൦ ആളുകളുടെ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളെ കേട്ടു തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളു എന്നു മെംബർക്കറിയാമോ?

Mr. P R. Godavarma Raja: Sir, it is always possible to instigate ignorant people to make representations on false promises. As far as I know, these instigators have not even a knowledge of the lands in the Edavaga; nor have they even an inch of land there and some of these people are instigating the tenants to agitate so that they may get more and more concessions. People are aware of the circumstances under which the Edavaga Act was passed. It was on the representations of the tenants themselves that this question wat taken up by the Government, and the Legislature after serious consideration passed that measure. The tenants must thank the Government and the legislative bodies for having got them such a beneficial measure. It is the Edavaga that stands to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja.]

lose in the working of that piece of legislation. Formerly, the tenants had no occupancy rights over their holdings. They were not able to get agricultural loans and they were not allowed to take part in the elections as voters and so they themselves gave representations to the Government to pass such measures as were necessary to get them a voice in the administration of the country. It is certainly strange that after having got such a beneficial legislation some people are throwing obstacles in the way of the speedy termination of the settlement operations. It is detrimental to the interests of the tenants as well as the chiefs concerned to postpone the issue of *pattas* at this stage. As far as the Chiefs are concerned they have to pay for the cost of the settlement and every day's delay means more cost to them. Under these circumstances, I request the Government to take speedy measures to terminate the settlement operations as early as possible.

Regarding the question of resurvey and settlement, I am at one with Mr. Arumugham Pillai and some others who are for taking up this question as early as possible, so that inequalities in taxation may be done away with.

Sir, I do not think that the matter of abolishing land tax is so serious now. It is only after complete industrialisation of the country that any such question can be thought of and unless some substitute for Land Revenue is found out, it is not possible to abolish land tax.

Coming to the question of Jenmikaram settlement.

President: Three honourable members now remain in the list that has been given to me and I have to invite them. Mr. T. Krishna Pillai will now speak.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Sir, all the points that I wished to bring to the notice of this House have received the pointed attention of the Government. The evils arising out of the present system of issuing demand notices have been so ably and eloquently discussed upon by my previous speakers that I do not wish to tax the patience of the members, especially at this fag end of the discussion. All the same, I have to bring to the attention of the Government a very serious omission on the part of the Land Revenue Commissioner, I mean the omission to bring to the attention of the Government the necessity for a grant of remission of tax in the malaria affected regions of South Travancore. Sir, it is not merely adulation or praise when I say that the endearing characteristic feature of the Government, I mean the present administration is the readiness with which the head of the administration was able to extent a helping hand whenever the necessity for help

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

was clearly made out. This fact is clearly exemplified from the readiness with which the remission of tax was granted in Nanjinad and the suburban regions and also from the sinking of tube wells in areas where there is a real scarcity of water. Now, Sir, I do not think it necessary to expatiate at any great length and invite the attention of the Government to the manifold difficulties and suffering endured by the poor inhabitants in those malaria affected regions in the Neyyattinkara Taluk. Sir, it is against the fundamental principles of taxation to demand the tax from these people and I am sorry that the Land Revenue Commissioner has not recommended to the Government the necessity of remission of taxes in those places. If he only had the kindness to pay a visit to those regions before the framing of the Budget, I am sure, he would not have had remained so serene and calm without making any effort to move the Government to extend some concession in the realisation of Governmental dues from these unfortunate, miserable beings inhabiting those regions. With the confident hope that legitimate and deserving help would be extended by the Government, and that the learned Land Revenue Commissioner would make a bold and timely move in the matter, I support the demand.

Mr N Krishna Aiyar (*Vaikom, Kottayam and Changanacherry cum Peermade*): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the irregularity and laxity in the conduct of the proverthicars in the matter of collection of taxes. If only the proverthicars would move out in the places under their jurisdiction, and meet the people who are to pay the tax, atleast, fifty per cent. of the arrears could be collected. This would also avoid a large number of demand notices being sent to the tax payers. There are instances where notices were sent to dead persons, and many of them are not served properly. The revenue collecting authorities have misinterpreted the Government Notification regarding remission of tax. The Notification has been recently clarified. But it was rather too late and before it was known to the people, the period for remission elapsed and several people were not able to take advantage of the same. I therefore, request the Government to extend the period for payment with remission till the end of Kanni 1115, as was done last year. This will enable a large portion of the arrears being collected within that period.

Secondly, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the invidious distinction between the different blocks in the Vembanad reclamation area. There are certain blocks which are assessed as 13th, and others as 12th *tarams*, and although they are quite alike in yield and value the cost of cultivation is the same for both The

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar.]

tax in respect of the blocks which are assessed as 12th *taram* has certainly to be reduced to that of the 13th *taram*. This matter has been brought to the notice of the Government more than once; unfortunately, no remedy has so far been effected. I would therefore urge upon the Government the urgent necessity of effecting an equalisation of the *tarams* in respect of the different blocks of the Vembanad reclamations.

Lastly, I would also emphasise the necessity to minimise the delay in the confirmation of revenue sales and the issue of sannads, so that arrears in respect of lands sold in revenue auctions would also be minimised.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Sir, I also oppose the Demand. My object is to draw the attention of Government to a few important points.

Sir, it was announced by the Government of Travancore about 16 years ago that, in order to give representation to non-caste Hindus and non-Hindus, in the Revenue Department, the Devaswoms were to be separated from the Revenue Department; and it is now sixteen years since such separation was actually made. According to my information, Sir, out of the 400 and odd Proverthicars, only 7 are Ezhavas; the position is more or less the same with regard to the pakuthi Accountants also. Apart from my community, there are also other communities suffering under the same disability. I would therefore request Government to be alert on this point and to redress our grievances as early as possible.

I have also to draw the attention of the House to another point namely, remission of tax, not in respect of paddy lands but in respect of the vast extent of cocoanut plantations affected by the cocoanut pest. In my constituency itself, there are large tracts, affected by this pest: the trees have lost their productivity, and in some cases they have actually perished. I understand that the owners concerned have prayed for the remission of tax in cases where this has happened; but I am sorry to say that the Department has not done anything so far with respect to those prayers.

I would, in this connection, urge upon the Government the immediate necessity for re-settlement; because, the assessment would then be made only on the actual present yield. In order to bring about an equitable incidence of taxation, re-settlement is urgently necessary.

There is one other point I would refer to, and that is the question of encroachments by private parties into what are called *Aradipadas* (*6 feet paths*) in country parts. Most of these paths

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

have now been narrowed down to a width of a foot or two feet; they have become *Oradipadas* or *Eeradipadas*, so that if a person like myself walks along the path, and if some one else comes from the opposite direction, he is not able to cross me without causing considerable inconvenience to me and to himself. The Land Revenue Department must vigilently watch these encroachments. I would request the Land Revenue Commissioner to issue immediate orders to the Revenue Supervisors in the various taluks to look into these encroachments so that cases may be taken against the parties concerned and punishment meted out wherever they have encroached.

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: Sir, so many points have been raised in the course of the debate that I do not think I will have sufficient time to deal with all of them. I shall however deal with the general points first.

President: The honourable member will have 20 minutes.

Mr. M Ramachandra Rao. Thank you, Sir.

The main point was about resurvey and resettlement. Successive Dewans have considered this question; they were all convinced that resettlement was necessary. The people of Nanjinad will recollect that, when the present Dewan-President visited South Travancore in 1112. in reply to a deputation which waited on him there, he said that the question of resettlement would be taken up soon, and then the grievances of the people of Nanjinad would be redressed. Unfortunately, the question had to be postponed for various reasons, one of the most important being the cost involved; it is expected that the resettlement operations would cost about a crore of rupees. That was why it was considered not feasible to take it up at once. All the same, it was found out that the people of South Travancore and of Shencotta needed special treatment on account of so many considerations other than the very high rate of tax they were paying; and therefore, Government granted, for five years, remission of 20 per cent. of the tax on all *ayacut* lands in taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram and Shencotta. From the fact that, from 1110, for successive years Government have been granting general remissions of 12½ per cent. and more, I am sure the sympathetic attitude of the Government towards the people would be apparent to the honourable members of this House. And, in some years, while the general rate of remission was 12½ per cent., Nanjinad and Kuttanad were granted remission of 18¾ per cent. In 1113, the Dewan first announced the remission of a certain percentage on the arrears of tax; subsequently, during the course of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao.]

this year, the remission has been made general and that has cost Government about Rs. 5 lakhs. Government have always been alive to the needs of the people. They are ever ready to redress the real and legitimate grievances of the people.

As I said at the outset, there is no doubt that resettlement is necessary, not for increasing the taxes, but to distribute them equitably. At present our land revenue is about Rs. 40 lakhs; after resettlement, it may go up or go down a little. But resettlement has necessarily to be preceded by resurvey; and resurvey and resettlement together will be very costly and cannot possibly be undertaken immediately. It is hoped that ere long—within the next 5 or 6 years—the question will be taken up.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know from the honourable member whether, if resettlement is effected at once, the owners of land now unassessed would not have to pay tax on such lands?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: That is true; also, in some cases the tax may have to be reduced. As I said, hanging on this question of resettlement is the work of Land Records Maintenance. We were doing it till about 1101; unfortunately, the representatives of the people were against it, and it had to be stopped. Last year provision was made in the budget for Land Records Maintenance; but, unfortunately, the work could not be pushed through. Provision has been made now also, and I hope to be able to get some work done in the coming year.

Sir, apart from the question of general resettlement, reference was made to the settlement of the Poonjar Edavagai. The points have been met by the honourable member Mr. Raja. Government have lent the services of a capable officer to the Poonjar Edavagai, and it is hoped that the settlement operations there will be finished soon.

Another important point that was raised was with respect to the Kandukrishi lands. As the House is aware, these lands stand on an entirely different footing from the Pandarapattom lands; the principle of taxation applicable to Pandarapattom lands will not and cannot apply to the Kandukrishi lands. These are Home Farm lands. All the same, I may inform the House that it has been possible, whenever necessary, to relax the rules in favour of the tenant, and even to grant remissions of his dues. If the tenant has any difficulty, and if he would represent his grievances to the authorities concerned, I am sure he would get necessary assistance.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

In regard to the other general questions that have been raised during the course of the debate, I may once again assure the House that Government are always alive to the needs of the people and have been doing their utmost for the people. There is however one other point in regard to these remissions which I would like the honourable House to bear in mind. I have been told during my tours, especially by the poor people, the masses, that these remissions are not really felt by them. If a person pays a tax of 8 chuckrams per annum, the extent of remission he gets is only one chuckram; naturally, he is not helped by that to any very great extent, although, by such a remission of 12½ percent., Government lose Rs. 4 to 5 lakhs. Of course, the rich man who pays between Rs. 4,000 and 5,000 every year by way of land tax, gets substantial relief on account of these remissions. Here again, the principle 'To him that hath unto him shall be given.', seems to apply.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I ask whether it is the land that pays the tax, or the man who owns the land?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: The land, no doubt; but the gain due to the remission goes to the man who owns the land.

Sir, my point is that there can be a real solution of our agriculturists' problems only if the general depression lifts and the prices of the agricultural products go up.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I ask whether the one chuckram is not as important and valuable to the poor man as the five hundred rupees to the rich man?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: True, but the poor people have actually told me, complained to me that the remissions were of little advantage to them. On principle I too would agree with my honourable friend; but the opinion of the general population seems to be otherwise. I may inform my honourable friend that, until, in my tours, I was able to gather the opinion of the poor people in the country, I too was of the same opinion as my friend Mr. Krishna Pillai.

Sir, the question of encroachments has also been adverted to. It might be that six-feet paths have now become two feet paths. Similarly, I know, in Karunagapalli side, 30-feet *todus* have now become 5-feet *todus*. But, who is at fault? Certainly the owners of the lands on either side of these paths or *thodus*. It is not difficult for me to take up encroachment cases against one and all of them. But, they will raise a hue and cry; it will only add to the political trouble. I would rather proceed cautiously in the matter, although I know that there are encroachments, and also that it is

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao.]

my duty to take up cases against the parties concerned. But, as I said, I shall proceed cautiously.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I ask whether the people of Karunagapalli have not surrendered lands free of compensation, and opened new roads?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: Yes, Sir, I have walked along one of such roads; it is good, I mean the road from Kulasekharapuram to the main road. There are also other instances in which the land has been surrendered free of compensation, by the people.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: In the light of such facts, does the honourable member think that there would be any trouble if roads and paths are widened back to their original widths?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: Where there was vacant land available, the people surrendered them free of compensation; but in the case of these paths and *thodus*, where they have deliberately encroached, they may not be willing.

Sir, several minor matters have also been referred to during the debate, markets for instance. It is true, Sir, that, in 1113, Government spent Rs. 8,500 towards the maintenance of markets; on that score, the question of maintenance of markets has been very forcibly presented to this House. Sir, Government are not unmindful of the need to maintain these markets properly. During the current year, a sum of Rs. 20,000 had been provided for in the budget; and for 1115 also, a similar provision has been made in the budget, and I hope to be able to spend the whole of it within the year. But, I may inform the House that there are several very small markets which do not yield even Rs. 50 per annum, although their proper maintenance would surely cost Government a much higher amount. Sir, the territorial distribution of the receipts from markets in a particular taluk or division towards the maintenance of the markets in that taluk or division, could not be possible. I may repeat that a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been provided in the budget for 1115, for the maintenance of market; I shall see that, to the last chuckram, that provision is fully utilised during the course of the year.

In regard to the Vembanad reclamations, the suggestion has been made that all the Kuttanad pakuthies concerned should be constituted into one taluk. I too have felt the inconvenience of the present arrangement by which certain pakuthies belong to the Ambalapuzha taluk, certain others to theKottayam taluk, and so on. But, I have not studied the question fully yet.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I ask whether the re-distribution of pakuthies suggested would not affect tradition and the sentiments of the people involved?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: That is comparatively a minor point. My main difficulty is with regard to the serious dislocation of the pakuthi accounts, which is inevitable in any such re-grouping of pakuthies. I should think that no such re-distribution can be undertaken before the next settlement.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I ask whether these properties are not being auctioned away every year?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: Yes, if people do not pay tax, the land in question will be auctioned.

Sir, in regard to this matter, the complaint was specifically made about the large number of revenue auction sales, and the unnecessarily large number of demand notices. Sir, nobody pays any tax willingly, because after all it is a tax; I myself may not like paying income tax on my salary but it has to be deducted from my pay. Therefore, something has to be done to enforce payment of tax, and that punctually. It is because tax is not paid on the due date that the demand notice is sent. As long as there is the system of land tax, and as long as Government have to depend upon land tax for the maintenance of the State, some penal provisions are absolutely essential. I may, however, inform the House that, in really hard cases, I have set aside revenue auction sales and have given back the properties to the owners. In dealing with these cases, two considerations generally weigh with me, firstly, sympathy, and secondly, the question whether the party seeking relief has a right on the property and it was auctioned without his knowledge. It was only recently that we issued a circular to the effect that every person who has a right over a land should register his right in the Pakuthi Cutcheri; there are several cases in which the *patta* stands in the name of one person, while another person pays the tax. As I said, wherever I have found real hardship caused to a party, I have redress it and I have been very liberal in the disposal of such revision petitions.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I inform the honourable member that the common agriculturist of this country finds it too costly to approach the Land Revenue Commissioner?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: It is open to the parties to come and appeal to me in person themselves, instead of through vakils; I am not very particular that vakils should appear before me.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Does the honourable member realise that, by making that statement, he hits hard a large section of private practitioners in the country who have acquired some kind of vested rights in the matter?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: It may not cost them much.

As regards the inspection of pakuthies by the Division Peishkar and other officers, I may assure the House, that whenever I inspect a taluk I have made it a point to meet as many as possible in the pakuthy cutcherries and the markets.

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai: ഒരു ഭാഗപത്രംഅനുസരിച്ച് ഒരു നായർ തറവാട് ഒരു സ്ത്രീക്കും അവരുടെ പത്തു സന്താനങ്ങൾക്കും വസ്തു വീതിച്ചു പോക്കുവരവു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു മുൻപേ ഈ പത്തുപേർക്കും ഡിമാൻഡ് നോട്ടസ് അയക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ ?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: പത്തു പേരുടെയും പേരിലാണ് വസ്തു ഇരിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ പത്തു പേർക്കും നോട്ടീസ് അയയ്ക്കും.

There is only one point more which was referred to by the honourable member Mr. Narayana Aiyar *viz.*, the delay in the issue of sannads. I promise, Sir, that I shall look into the matter when I go to his taluk in the near future.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 10,51,949 under demand I—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income was put and carried. The grant was made.

The House rose for lunch at 1-3 P. M. and re-assembled at 2 P. M. with the President in the Chair.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Sir, we find a publication placed on the table before us. We do not know who is the author of that publication and who authorised it to be placed on the table.

Mr. M. P. Joseph (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, this memorandum has been prepared by a gentleman who has studied the excise laws of various countries and of this State. The book is placed on the table on my authority to point out the other side of the question.

President: Order, order. The honourable member may move his grant.

DEMAND II—EXCISE.

Mr. M. P. Joseph: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 6,90,430 under Demand II—Excise.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly